

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/856,313

Applicant(s)

WESSELING ET AL.

Examiner

Charlie C. Agwumezie

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to 08/17/01.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-9 and 12-24.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 5/21/01 & 01/13/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

*Sumin Socha*  
Primary Examiner

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Terminal Disclaimer*

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on 09/20/05 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of **U.S. Patent No. 6,851,619** has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

2. Claims 3-9 and 12-24 allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of records are U.S. Patent No. 5,978,781 and U.S. Patent 5,953,426 to Windel et al.

Applicant discloses a method of producing and checking franking marks on a document by making available a unique bit string; establishing an identification code and securely printing the franking mark. The franking mark is a combination of information relating to the bit string and the identification code. The bit string is selected from a centrally stored and registered set of unique bit strings.

Sansone discloses a method for checking postal indicia comprising a unique number. The unique number is a security code that is derived from address field and information contained in the postage meter that affixes the indicia. In another embodiment, the unique number is a barcode that is derived from address field and

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information contained in the postal security device that affixed the indicia. In either case the unique numbers are generated by postage meters and postal security devices that are local terminals. Sansone failed to disclose a central office to store unique bit strings in the first memory and issue them to at least one of the plurality of terminals. Sansone also failed to disclose a method wherein in the terminals, the identification code is combined with the unique bit strings, and the resulting combinations are sent back to the central office for storage in the second memory.

Windel et al discloses a method for checking a security imprint in a postage meter machine which includes means for generating and checking of security imprint by postal authority, taken alone or in combination with any other references fails to teach a method for producing a franking mark on a postal document that includes the steps of: at the central office storing unique bit strings in the first memory and issue them to at least one of the plurality of terminals. Windel et al also failed to disclose a method wherein in the terminals, the identification code is combined with the unique bit strings, and the resulting combinations are sent back to the central office for storage in the second memory; means for checking whether the decoded identification code is correct by comparing the decoded identification code to the identification code stored in the second memory and means for checking whether the decoded unique bit strings is valid by comparing the decoded unique bit strings to the unique bit strings stored in the second memory. These limitations in conjunction with other limitations in the claimed invention were not shown by the prior arts of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

The prior arts made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicants disclosure.

Pastor et al discloses a mail processing system including data center verification for mailpieces.

Eckert discloses a method and apparatus for verifying postage.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles C. Agwumezie whose number is **(571) 272-6838**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on **(571) 272 – 6712**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

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Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

**Washington D.C. 20231**

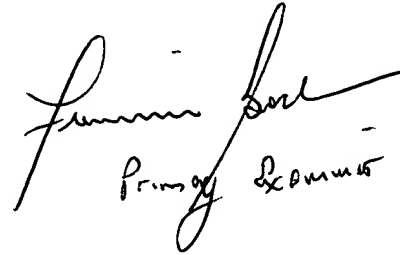
Or faxed to:

**(571) 273-8300.** [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"].

**(571) 273-8300.** [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"].

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the Examiner in the Knox Building, 50  
Dulany Street Alexandria VA.

acc  
October 6, 2005



Priscilla L. Smith